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October 7, 1999

**Dockets Management Branch** (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers La., Rm. 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

RE: Docket nos. 98N-1230, 96P-0418, and 97P-0197

To Whom It May Concern:

As a physician, I am writing to recommend eliminating the practice of forced molting egg-laying hens.

Recent research, including a study conducted by U.S. government scientists, shows that forced molting increases the frequency and severity of *Salmonella enteritidis* among hens. The stressful conditions weaken their immune systems so badly that they become prone to disease and salmonella infections. The result is sick birds and contaminated eggs.

The most effective and direct way to reduce salmonella in eggs would be to eliminate the practice of forced molting.

Sincerely,

*Richard F. Gartner M.D.*

Richard F. Gartner M.D.

96P-0418

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CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number: 98N-1230/ *C 748*

See File Number: 97P-0197/ *C 749*  
96P-0418/ *C 748*